

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/869,680
Reply to Office Action Dated August 24, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, and 17 are hereby amended. Claims 9 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 18-21 are new.

The amendment of claims 1, 10, 11, and 17, reciting "wherein the substrate also carries image reading elements provided separately from the plurality of light emitting elements", is supported, for example, by Figure 1A and page 14, lines 3-11. New claims 18-21 correspond to original allowed claims 3 and 5-7, rewritten in independent form.

Claim 2 was objected to for unclear language. Applicants traverse this objection. Claim 2 is amended to clarify that the weaker light emitting elements emit less light than the brighter light emitting elements. Favorable reconsideration of claim 2 is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8-17 were rejected as being anticipated by Nagane (US 5,313,289). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 9 and 16 are canceled. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of the rejection as applied to claims 9 and 16. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 17 require that "the substrate also carries image reading elements provided separately from the plurality of light emitting elements". Nagane does not suggest that the substrate carry both the light emitting elements (208) and the image reading elements (not shown at the end of optical path 301). See Figure 16. The substrate taught by Nagane contains only the light emitting elements (8b) and current-limiting resistors (8d). See Figure 10. As can be seen in this figure, the substrate in Nagane is not suitable for accepting image reading elements. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10-15, and 17 is requested.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/869,680
Reply to Office Action Dated August 24, 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: February 24, 2005

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Mueller', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM:mfe